

VZCZCXRO7009
PP RUEH DU RUEHJO
DE RUEHMR #0008 0101105
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P R 101105Z JAN 06
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1791
INFO RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 0016
RUEH KI/AMEMBASSY KINSHASA 0004
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 0010
RUEH MV/AMEMBASSY MONROVIA 0002
RUEHAN/AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO 0008
RUEHWD/AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK 0041
RUEH LGB/AMEMBASSY KIGALI 0005
RUEH KH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0501
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0003
RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 0002
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 0002
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 0002
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0005
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 0002
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 0002
RUEHMK/AMEMBASSY MANAMA 0002
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0005
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE 0002
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0010
RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK 0002
RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG 0002
RUEHBM/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 0002
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU 0002
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0002
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 0002
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 0004
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0002
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0008
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 0002
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0031
RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEHMR/AMEMBASSY MASERU 2042

UNCLAS MASERU 000008

SIPDIS

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SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

DEPT FOR IO/T - BLACKWOOD, HHS/GLOBAL HEALTH AFFAIRS - PARTRIDGE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [AORC](#) [TBIO](#) [WHO](#) [LT](#)

SUBJECT: WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD: LESOTHO'S POSITION ON SMALLPOX AGENDA
ITEM

REF: STATE 232766

¶1. (U) Lesotho's Minister of Health Phooko concurred with USG position regarding WHO Smallpox Agenda Item during January 9 discussion with Ambassador. Following review of talking points (reftel), Dr. Phooko stated that the concern of WHO Regional Committee for Africa was a desire for transparency and inclusivity in research activities. Phooko was especially interested in knowing the names of African experts/scientists who might be part of research teams. ACTION REQUEST: Post requests HHS forward this information to us in a timely manner before the GOL/WHO delegation departs for Geneva o/a January 21.

¶2. (SBU) Minister Phooko also alluded to the Regional Committee's concern about misuse of existing virus stockpiles in bioterrorism. He indicated that least developed countries were especially vulnerable to potential attacks. At the same time, he agreed that continued research is needed for the development of better diagnostic tools, development of effective anti-viral drugs and production of improved and safer smallpox vaccines.

¶3. (SBU) Comment: Minister Phooko took the lead for the Africa Regional Committee last year and is expected to be leader during this session also. He is in agreement with the U.S. position

and said he would advance it during the upcoming meeting.

PERRY